

The following is my letter regarding Long Term Unemployment

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Title of Hearing: Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment

My story is not unique; in fact it has become all too common. I'm a 58 year old female who has been unemployed since January 9, 2009. I had been employed with the same family owned business doing their clerical work for the last 18 years. Then the economy took a turn for the worse, and with no warning I was out of a job. We had promised our son we would help him financially while he was finishing his degree at a school in New York City. This news was devastating to me as I counted on this job to help my family, and to keep my promise to my son.

I did not anticipate the difficulties I would encounter looking for a new job. One employer told me he was overwhelmed with applicants for the one position he had available. He said he had over 68 persons apply for the position, he narrowed it down to 5 and I was one of them. I interviewed for the position, I did not get the job. Another position I applied for I was told over 200 applicants had applied. The field for this position was narrowed down to 15. I being one of the 15. I have not heard back regarding this position. I don't know where the figures of 6 people for one job came from, here in our county (Cecil County, Maryland) it is much worse.

These are just two of the many interviews I have gone on, only to NOT get the nod that the job is mine. Most of the resumes and letters do not get a response or call for interview. It is like they fall into the deep abyss.

I have to ask myself is this because of my age? I realize I'm in competition with women and men probably 20 – 30 years younger than I, but I was not ready to retire. I can not even collect social security at the earliest until 62, what am I to do until then?

What frustrates me the most is the way our Congress is handling this long-term unemployment. How in good conscious could the senate leave for a week long break when this latest extension was not addressed. I don't think you recognize the amount of people that depend on this to live. I appreciate the need to pay as you go, I have children and don't want them burdened with this mess, but what I don't understand is with all the wasteful projects our government sees fit to fund, isn't this problem more of a priority, that a bridge to nowhere, or 15 million dollars for relieve in the Congo. A worthy cause but what about us, the long-term unemployed. This is a priority that needs to be acted on right now. I would really like to know the figure for the number of people over 50 who make up the long-term unemployed. I think the numbers would be staggering. I urge you to add an additional tier to the federal unemployment benefits, it is needed and it is needed now. I did not choose to stop working, that decision was made for me.

One thing we can still do even without a job is vote.

Thank you for your consideration,